

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CHULA VISTA SAFETY COMMISSION**

**June 11, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

**Community Room
Chula Vista Police Department Headquarters**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Present: Chair Liken; Commissioners Caudillo, Cochrane, Moriarty, Navarro and Perrett

Absent: Commissioner Johnson

Staff present: Frank Rivera, Principal Civil Engineer; Muna Cuthbert, Senior Civil Engineer; Police Officer Shon Thurman; and Florence Picardal, Recording Secretary

Also present: Greg Cox, County Supervisor; Danny Melgoza, Policy Advisor, Office of County Supervisor Cox; Dean Hiatt, SANDAG Sr. Transportation Engineer; Stephan Vance, SANDAG Sr. Regional Planner

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Opening Statement

Opening statement read by Chair Liken.

4. Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2009 and February 12, 2009

MSC (Moriarty/Cochrane) to accept the minutes of February 12, 2009 as submitted. (6-0-1, Johnson absent)

January 8, 2009 minutes were not available.

5. Oral Communications

None.

MEETING AGENDA

6. Resolution - Prohibiting on-street parking on Bay Blvd from the Moss Street extension to Palomar Street to allow for the future Bayshore Bikeway Bike Path

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is currently working on completing the 24-mile Bayshore Bikeway facility that runs around the San Diego Bay. When completed, it will consist of a two-way bike path from downtown San Diego to National City, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach and end at the Coronado Ferry Landing. As part of completing this regional facility, SANDAG is considering a portion of the bike path through Chula Vista to be on Bay Blvd. In order to accommodate this bike path, on-street parking must be prohibited on Bay Blvd from the South Bay Power Plant entrance, at the Moss Street extension, to Palomar Street.

Principal Civil Engineer Rivera gave a short presentation. The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition submitted a letter of support with the following reasons: 1) There is adequate parking for the businesses on Bay Blvd. without the need for on-street parking, 2) Removal of parking makes both the bike path and the bike lanes safer to use due to increased visibility of path users and eliminating the hazard of car doors opening in the lanes; and 3) The inclusion of the bike lanes on Bay Blvd. keeps the local bicycle network intact for bicyclists

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

using the corridor to commute within Chula Vista, including providing access for bicyclists to the businesses on the east side of Bay Blvd.

Mr. Rivera mentioned if the Commission does not support staff recommendation, the bike lanes would continue north of the South Bay Power Plant entrance driveway and there is a bike lane facility going south. When starting off with a bike lane and then crossing over to a bike path, this creates conflict points and safety issues. The City doesn't want to stop a bike lane in favor of a bike path and but would like to see both in place. He stated this is one of the projects in the region that ranks high enough to be recommended for funding. Funding is expected to be approved within the next 2 weeks. Design will start this month and continue thru February of next year. Advertisement of the construction will be in March and construction begins July of next year with completion in April 2011.

Greg Cox, County Supervisor, stated this project has been in the works for the last 31 years and the goal is to have a complete Class I bike facility all around the bay. This is a 1.7 mile segment funded by SANDAG that is being constructed from Palomar all the way to H Street. The County is very encouraged this project is moving at a fast clip. A segment in Imperial Beach was completed last April. He stated this is a regional path that will divert a lot of people (from North Island and NAASCO) from the traffic. Also, this is a multi-modal path (joggers, roller-bladers, walkers). He concluded that staff has done a good job explaining the project and thanked the Commission for considering this item.

Stephan Vance, SANDAG Sr. Regional Planner and Dean Hiatt, SANDAG Sr. Transportation Planner were both available to answer any technical questions. Mr. Rivera stated all affected businesses were notified by signage that contained specific language -- "on-street parking prohibition". No comments were received.

Staff Recommendation: Accept staff's report and adopt a resolution concurring with staff's recommendation to prohibit on-street parking on Bay Blvd. from the Moss Street extension to Palomar Street as part of the Bayshore Bikeway project construction.

There were no requests to speak from the public.

Commission Discussion: Both Commissioners Navarro and Perrett expressed their support of staff's recommendation. Chair Liken commended staff and the other agencies who worked on this project to push it forward and save taxpayer money. He added it would greatly enhance the area.

MSC (Perrett/Navarro) to concur with staff recommendation. (6-0-1, Johnson absent).

7. Report on the Southwestern College Neighborhood Parking Management Plan

Residents of Charter Point and the College Estates Subdivision have requested that both the City of Chula Vista and Southwestern College implement measures that will reduce and/or eliminate student on-street parking issues in two residential areas located adjacent to the college.

On February 12, 2009, the Safety Commission directed staff to follow-up on public comments regarding concerns related to Southwestern College student parking in adjacent residential neighborhoods. Public Works Engineering and Police Department staffs have been working with Southwestern College and adjacent residential neighborhoods (Charter Point and College Estates) to address off-campus student parking issues. Specifically, during the public comments portion of the Safety Commission meeting, residents expressed concern with student vehicles parking too close to driveways and/or parking at intersections, thus reducing sight distance on Apache Street and Gotham Street and the lack of available curb side parking due to increased student parking. In addition, residents commented on concerns related to student conduct and trash left in curb areas.

Principal Civil Engineer Rivera gave a detailed presentation. He stated the solution must involve all three parties -- City, residents, and the college. The City has agreed to continue to look at this issue; Police will continue enforcement as time permits; the college will conduct the student survey; and Charter Point will look at their access gates. Officer Thurman stated enforcement started in September 2008. At the beginning of the semester, half of the traffic division was conducting enforcement along with the Sr.

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Volunteers. He explained there are only two traffic enforcement officers for the City with one of them partially funded by the Third Avenue businesses. Tickets are still being issued for expired registration. He stated he hasn't seen any blocked driveways recently.

Chair Liken asked if Sr. Volunteers can write tickets for anything other than handicapped parking. Officer Thurman answered no. Chair Liken continued that Sr. Volunteers can be the eyes and ears, but they would have to call an officer to issue a violation. He asked staff if parking was restricted in one neighborhood have they determined where the problem would move. Mr. Rivera answered, at Charter Point, the problem would probably move to Woodcrest (west). For College Estates, a map was shown and different locations were pointed out. Chair Liken asked if anyone conducted a study on how far students would go to park, possibly using a trial traffic regulation for no parking in a specific area. Mr. Rivera responded that if we did a trial traffic regulation, it would probably be done on a barricade, one sign per house and the issue would be the expense. Sr. Civil Engineer Cuthbert's research shows that students will walk long distances to not pay. Some of the larger colleges have significant problems around their campus.

Commissioner Cochrane asked if the college could lawfully require enrolled students to buy parking permits. Mr. Rivera has asked that question many times, no they cannot. He stated John Wilson from the college was here to answer any questions. Commissioner Moriarty asked if the college still had campus parking for \$1/day.

Mr. John Wilson stated they still have daily permits (\$3/day). There are parking meters (2 hr. and 45 min.), parking permits (\$40/semester) with a reduced rate (\$20/semester) for students who qualify. They are stepping up the notification of their parking program. They intend to be very aggressive in the Fall. He stated there is adequate parking for students. He believes it's a financial issue for the students. They would do their best to encourage students to buy permits.

Commissioner Moriarty stated she believes it is a financial issue, but also thought it was very difficult to exit the campus, especially around noon. She stated students prefer to park in the neighborhood for that reason. Mr. Wilson agreed that at the beginning of the semester, it is difficult to exit at noon. The campus police direct traffic, but there are only three exits. Mr. Rivera stated the City is working on the ultimate improvements on Otay Lakes Rd. and East H Street along the college frontage. The project will be done in 3 phases with the first phase starting next year.

Commissioner Navarro wanted to know how well the college has promoted the discount parking rate. Mr. Wilson stated they probably have not been doing a very good job this past Fall and Spring. They've look at various ways to get the information to the student. If the student is a BOGG student, the system will automatically place them into the \$20/permit category. The college did some stats and reports back in the Spring and will run those again to try to identify which students did not buy permits and why. On-line students are growing and there are lots of students that ride the bus. In the Spring report, of the 19,000 registered students district- wide (4 campuses), 12,000 bought permits. They will get more data to find out why those students did not buy permits (i.e., on-line student, ride the bus, different campus). The college intends to spend some very serious time in the Fall to identify those reasons.

Commissioner Navarro asked if the college promotes the discounted rate aggressively and they get 80-90% participation, is there enough parking on the campus. Mr. Wilson responded absolutely yes. Because of the load, students come and go all day. They have not had any issues with parking and added 1200 spaces three years ago. There are currently 4200 spaces. He stated if the college starts to have a problem, they are prepared to bring on more parking if necessary.

Commissioner Moriarty recalled when registering on-line a question came up that asked if you would like to purchase a parking permit on-line, but not anymore. Mr. Wilson answered he would look into it since that is done by the registration section.

Commissioner Caudillo asked if the \$40 rate would be reduced. Mr. Wilson stated their General Fund does not support the parking program whose services include a portion of the campus officers that patrol the lots, hourly workers, maintenance, and utilities. They have no surplus and their budget is running close to a deficit now. He stated their permits are very inexpensive compared to a lot of schools - SDSU and San

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Marcos. They are more in line with the SD Community College District and Palomar. They would look at it, but it is a very fine balance.

Staff Recommendation: Accept staff's report and recommendation to utilize the Education and Enforcement strategies in managing and solving the parking issues in the vicinity of Southwestern College at the Charter Point and College Estates Neighborhoods.

Public Hearing opened. Chair Liken requested speakers to include in their statement: 1) if they saw a change in the parking situation when the enforcement was initiated, and 2) would they be in favor of a preferential parking district.

Councilmember Ramirez gave a brief history on his involvement with this issue. As part of his public office hours he conducts once a month, his office heard there were some issues with the rear gate at Charter Point being open. They scheduled a meeting with that neighborhood. The college made a commitment to hold quarterly meetings with staff and the residents to address some of the issues. At one of those meetings, his office suggested the residents bring this to the attention of the Safety Commission. He stated we should continue to meet with residents to monitor progress and to work closely with the college. He stated this will be an ongoing issue with his office and this is the appropriate Commission to address these issues. He suggested that the residents meet with the folks from other neighborhoods that have the parking districts to get their thoughts and experiences to better understand the ramifications. He suggested another public meeting in a couple of months.

The following persons spoke in support of staff's recommendation:

1. Karen Ordone, 1550-A Apache Dr. (in favor of red curbing on Apache; yes in the beginning there was a change in the parking situation, but not anymore; preferential parking does not apply to Charter Point)
2. James Fortner, 1732 Ithaca St. (favors more red curbing; not in favor of permit parking or time-limited parking; sees no problem with parking; believes college parking should be free)
3. Linda Bewley, 1540-A Apache Dr. (not in favor of time-limited parking; speeding on Apache more of problem)
4. Pete Springer, 1667 Gotham St. (against parking permit; does not care if students park in front of his home)
5. Burma Dunn, 1560-D Apache Dr. (permit parking preferred)
6. Yvonne Mayfield (student), 1215 Raven Pl. (reduce price of college permit)
7. Nancy Rosebrook, 1519-C Apache Dr. (need more info from college as to why students are not parking on campus before taking any action)
8. Bernice Cochran (do away with Bayshore Bike path and use money for college area)

The following persons spoke against staff's recommendation:

1. Tom Davis, 1657 Gotham St. (there was no change in parking density after enforcement; in favor of permit parking; does not agree with cost of preferential parking district)
2. Sue Clapham, 1509-B Apache Dr. (does not believe education will help; favors aggressive ticketing or arrest)

Public Hearing closed.

Commission Discussion: Chair Liken asked about the possibility of restricting parking Monday-Friday, time limit to two hours between the hours of 8 am to 2 pm giving residents exemption (by placard or sticker) without creating a preferential parking district. Mr. Rivera responded the issue with that option would be no parking enforcement. As stated by Officer Thurman, there are only two officers citywide with one partially paid by the Third Avenue Business District. Most of the annual cost for the preferential parking district is for the parking officer. Chair Liken asked about the college police and their enforcement - do the campus police have the ability to enforce outside the college and could we ask them to enforce outside the college? A representative from the college stated officers do not enforce campus parking, students are used. Commissioner Moriarty asked if the campus police could do the outside enforcement and asked if it was a possibility to bring this up to the governing board. Chair Liken stated coming into the meeting, he did not

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

necessarily agree with staff's recommendations. He wanted to give residents some kind of relief. However, with everyone's testimony and the college representatives present, it was very promising. It does show some dedication to solving the problem. He agreed with one of the speakers on getting more information, conduct the study, listen to the feedback in the Fall and try to do the best for the best interests of Chula Vista. We heard the commitment from Councilman Ramirez and will continue to work on this issue.

Commissioner Moriarty wanted more information on getting the issue to the governing board; possibly stretch the boundaries for campus police. Chair Liken stated that could be potential revenue for both the City and the college. He felt that if the area was posted for time limited parking, it would deter students from parking. Commissioner Perrett stated the college getting the word out on parking permits would help. Commissioner Navarro stated we heard a lot of information and great ideas, but we need a timeline on a plan of action. Commissioner Cochrane commented on the speeding problem on Apache. He asked about installation of speed dots. Mr. Rivera stated data needs to be collected on Apache for the best location and a cost estimate could be calculated.

Chair Liken asked about any calls received. Mr. Rivera stated he received one call from a resident on Yale who stated he did not have problems with parking. Ms. Cuthbert received two phone calls from Charter Point, one against any type of parking restriction or permit. The other caller wanted red curbing, felt abandoned vehicles should be removed, and thought students were a problem. She stated in her research, parking districts use meter fees to fund the districts, not just resident fees. Commissioner Caudillo asked if Sr. Volunteers could be empowered to write tickets. Officer Thurman answered their scope is limited and the majority of their job is to set up speed trailers and conduct vacation checks; their numbers are limited. He stated he would do further research. He went on to explain that towing vehicles and monitoring 2 hr. parking is labor intensive. The department has limited enforcement personnel and would need someone assigned specifically for that area. As Chair Liken stated, just having it posted 2 hr. parking will deter people. Commissioner Cochrane added there may be a civil statue to prevent Sr. Volunteers from ticketing. Commissioner Navarro stated the same issue has been looked at all over the county. It is a big liability and a statue (government code or vehicle code) must be changed to allow Sr. Volunteers to write tickets. Other cities have looked at it and considered expanding duties, but liability stops them. Chair Liken stated it was obvious there is a problem and it is not getting better. All groups are working together to try to resolve it and suggested continuation of that work. There have been three organized meetings. Commissioner Cochrane asked if campus police could do all the parking enforcement in the neighborhood. Chair Liken answered the issue would have to go to college staff (before going to college board) and would possibly be a budgetary issue. Mr. Rivera stated because of Brown Act requirements; it may be advisable that the Commission form a task force for this issue. Chair Liken preferred that a special meeting be called, but would like to wait until the quarterly meeting then go to college board with the request for campus police enforcement, if needed.

MSC (Liken/Moriarty) to accept staff's recommendation, continue quarterly meetings with Councilmember Ramirez, Southwestern College, and residents; notice Safety Commission of next quarterly meeting; work to an end to alleviate the problem; return with report after the new semester begins (in August) to include college survey data. (6-0-1, Johnson absent)

Recess for 5 minutes.

8. Resolution - Approving the installation of an all way stop at Quintard Street and Tobias Drive

City staff received a request from a citizen for the installation of an all-way stop at the intersection of Quintard Street and Tobias Drive. The resident feels this intersection is unsafe for both motorists and pedestrians due to speeding, primarily during school drop-off and dismissal times. Staff conducted a study of the intersection.

Staff Recommendation: Accept staff's report and adopt a resolution concurring with staff's recommendation to install an all-way stop control at the intersection of Quintard Street and Tobias Drive.

MSC (Liken/Moriarty) to concur with staff's recommendation. (6-0-1, Johnson absent)

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

9. Traffic Engineering CIP Project Update

Report was accepted into record.

10. Traffic Accident Summaries for January 2009, February 2009, March 2009, and April 2009

Officer Thurman gave a brief update. There have been no recent fatalities; they will be losing one position (commercial enforcement) in their section; staff is healthy; and a new paperless reporting system is in place (NetRMS).

OTHER BUSINESS

11. Summary of Activities Annual Report for FY 2008-2009

The annual report has been prepared and will be forwarded to the City Clerk.

12. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Liken announced that Vice Chair is termed out this month, but will be staying on board until a new Commissioner is selected. He also announced that Commissioner Johnson she will not be continuing as a Commissioner due to a new job and asked that the vacancy be posted.

MSC (Moriarty/Navarro) to nominate John Liken as Chair. (5-0-1-1, Liken abstain/Johnson absent)

MSC (Liken/Moriarty) to nominate Patricia Moriarty as Vice Chair. (6-0-1, Johnson absent)

13. Boards & Commissions Recognition Event, June 22, 2009

Chair Liken asked if Commissioners were planning on attending the Boards & Commissions Recognition event in the Council Chambers on June 22, 2009 to notify the Recording Secretary.

14. Commissioner Comments

In an effort to go green, Chair Liken asked the Commissioners to notify the Recording Secretary if a hard copy of the agenda packet would be needed for the meeting to prevent extra copies being printed and discarded.

15. Staff Comments

Commissioner Moriarty was concerned about the three cancelled meetings and wanted an explanation. Mr. Rivera responded due to the nature of the requests in the last few months, staff was not in a position to bring items forward. Specifically, the Southwestern item, which was a very complicated report and was not completed until the June meeting. With reduced staffing, there is less time to concentrate on reports. Future reports may not be as in-depth. If items are not time sensitive, they can be more detailed such as the ones presented at this meeting. He stated the City Manager has asked staff to question their commissions if they would be willing to go to quarterly meetings or a modified schedule. Also to reduce costs associated with staffing, the City Manager asked about the possibility of starting Commission meetings at 4:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. Chair Liken asked if the schedule is changed to bi-monthly and 4:00 p.m., would the Safety Commission be moved back into the Chambers. Chair Liken did not like a quarterly schedule, but was okay with bi-monthly. He added that the Police Community Room is too small for public meetings and would prefer another location. Mr. Rivera stated the Safety Commission was established in the 70's. He added that the Commission's highest priority is a change in venue and bi-monthly meetings. Assistant Director of Engineering, Iracsema Quilantan, introduced herself. She stated at the City Manager's meeting, the City Manager and his staff recognized the Safety Commission as one of the most critical commissions with quite a bit of importance because of the issues that are handled at the Commission level before reaching Council. Commission start times and schedules are being looked at citywide for any cost savings. City staff was asked to go to every commission for any suggested changes.

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Staff is not recommending anything that would alter the benefits from this Commission. She also stated that normally, she would not attend these Commission meetings, but was very involved in the Southwestern parking issue. Chair Liken stated he read an article in the paper and was wondering if this Commission was going to be dismissed. He appreciated the comments from the City Manager, understands the staffing issues, appreciates staff's work and was willing to work with the City and budgetary issues. He stated he would like the meetings to go back to the Council Chambers due to the large public participation. There was consensus to look at Wednesdays as another meeting day if the Chambers were not available on Thursdays.

ADJOURNMENT AT 9:07 P.M. to the next scheduled meeting of July 9, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Picardal, Recording Secretary

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UNOFFICIAL MINUTES